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# U.S. May Aid Prisoner Deal

## Fund Use Hinted To Free Cubans

The American taxpayer apparently will have to pay a share of the bill if prisoners taken in the abortive Cuban invasion are released.

Members of Congress who have been kept up to date on the progress of negotiations between New York Attorney James B. Donovan and Prime Minister Fidel Castro for an exchange of 1,113 men captured in the April, 1961, invasion attempt indicated they expect emergency funds to be used.

There have been reports that the Central Intelligence Agency

Return of Castro Captives Awaited  
Eagerly in Miami. Page A-2

would come up with some of the money. But a Congressman in a position to know said he does not believe any final decision has been made.

Mr. Castro has asked for payment of \$62 million for release of the prisoners. Mr. Donovan is attempting to work out an agreement for furnishing food and medicine to Cuba in return for release of the prisoners.

### Doubtful on Funds

Some members of Congress said they do not believe a private organization such as the Cuban Families Committee could come close to raising any such sum as \$62 million or could assemble food and medicine valued at that amount.

This leads them to the assumption that Government supplies and money will be utilized to seal any barter bargain that might be made.

Mr. Castro postponed a scheduled meeting with Mr. Donovan yesterday, informed sources reported. They said Mr. Castro put off the session so he could welcome Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos back from the United Nations.

Mr. Dorticos declined comment last night when asked about the prisoner situation before his departure from New York.

State Department Press Officer Lincoln White said yesterday no agreement had been reached, but negotiations were continuing.

### Capital Cautious

Meanwhile, a word of caution was injected by informed Washington sources into speculation that the prisoners' release was imminent.

These sources said there still are some possible barriers

to an agreement and warned that premature disclosure of negotiation details could make those barriers more difficult to surmount.

Havana sources had said that only one final meeting between Mr. Donovan and Mr. Castro stood in the way of the prisoners' liberation. They said Mr. Donovan had arranged for the prisoners' air transportation to Miami.

### White House Approval

There was every reason to believe President Kennedy and other high officials hoped the negotiations would be successful. The White House in the past has looked with approval on efforts to free the prisoners.

But the Kennedy administration has taken extraordinary precautions to cloak any activities in which it has engaged in connection with the negotiations. Sources report the President never has discussed the matter with congressional leaders at frequent White House sessions.

With a few scattered exceptions, Senate and House members profess to be completely in the dark on what is going on. This probably will result in demands for full-scale reports on any role the Government played if the prisoners are released.

There already are rumblings against the payment of ransom to gain the freedom of the captives. These could breed some inflammatory statements in a political campaign in which the Republicans already are blaming Mr. Kennedy for Soviet intervention in Cuba.

Representative Cramer, Republican of Florida, objected yesterday to Mr. Donovan's negotiations with Mr. Castro. He stated his protest in telegrams to Mr. Kennedy, Secretary of State Rusk and Controller General Joseph Campbell.

Noting reports that taxpayer money may be used to pay the ransom, Mr. Cramer said any such expenditures would be contrary to the basic statement of policy by Congress authorizing specific action to combat Mr. Castro and communism.

"How two-faced can our foreign objectives be?" he asked.

special facilities to process the prisoners when they arrive at Homestead. The Air Force installation is a Strategic Air Command base which operates under strict security which would prevent relatives of the captives and newsmen from seeing them there.

It is expected the prisoners will be photographed, fingerprinted, interviewed and receive physical examinations when they arrive at Homestead by special teams of United States officials reportedly being brought in from as far away as New York and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Then it is expected that the prisoners will be taken by bus to the Navy's former air station at Opa Locka on the outskirts of Miami to be reunited with their families.

Special press facilities are being set up at Opa Locka today for coverage of the prisoners' return, but officials insisted there still is no word when the negotiations will be completed. Pan American World Airways is expected to fly the prisoners from Cuba to the United States, 45 minutes away by jet.

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